
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE TO ENGAGE THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT PRESENCE WITHIN THE STATE OF HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Energy has a long-
2 established presence in Hawaii through collaboration among its
3 various offices and national laboratories with state and county
4 agencies, the private sector, and local communities; and
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6 WHEREAS, in 2008, the State and the United States
7 Department of Energy signed a memorandum of understanding that
8 established the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative and created a
9 long-term partnership to provide a replicable global model that
10 transforms the way that renewable energy efficiency resources
11 are planned and used through the substantive transformation of
12 the financial, regulatory, legal, and institutional systems that
13 govern energy planning and delivery within the State; and
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15 WHEREAS, in 2010, the Legislature passed Act 73, Session
16 Laws of Hawaii 2010, to statutorily establish the Hawaii Clean
17 Energy Initiative Program and designate the Department of
18 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism as the lead agency
19 for the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative; and
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21 WHEREAS, in 2014, the State and the United States
22 Department of Energy recommitted to the Hawaii Clean Energy
23 Initiative partnership through an updated memorandum of
24 understanding to transition from fossil fuel imports in favor of
25 local renewable resources and efficiency to develop "a national
26 model for job creation, industrial transformation, environmental
27 compliance, and technological innovation"; and
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29 WHEREAS, since recommitting to the partnership, Hawaii has
30 established itself as a global leader on energy policy by being
31 the first state to:
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1 (1) Commit to:

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3 (A) Achieving a one hundred percent renewable
4 portfolio standard through Act 97, Session Laws
5 of Hawaii 2015;

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7 (B) Mitigating and adapting to climate change
8 consistent with the Paris Agreement through
9 Act 32, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017; and

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11 (C) Achieving net-negative greenhouse gas emissions
12 through Act 15, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018; and
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14 (2) Declare a climate emergency through Senate Resolution
15 No. 44, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, (2021); and
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17 WHEREAS, the Legislature enacted Act 122, Session Laws of
18 Hawaii 2019, which created the Hawaii State Energy Office as an
19 independent agency administratively attached to the Department
20 of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism and tasked it
21 with the functions and responsibilities for a clean energy
22 economy, including leading the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative,
23 and whose Chief Energy Officer is appointed by the Governor and
24 confirmed by the Senate; and
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26 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative and the State's
27 establishment of the first one hundred percent renewable
28 portfolio standard by 2045 was followed by twelve states
29 adopting similar targets, and the Biden-Harris Administration's
30 national target for a carbon pollution-free electricity sector
31 by 2035 and carbon neutrality economy-wide by 2050; and
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33 WHEREAS, in 2021, the Biden-Harris Administration
34 established the Justice40 Initiative, a whole-of-government
35 approach to ensure that federal agencies work with states and
36 local communities to deliver at least forty percent of overall
37 benefits from federal investments in climate and clean energy to
38 disadvantaged communities; and
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40 WHEREAS, with respect to the nation as a whole, Hawaii has
41 a disproportionate number of communities experiencing low income
42 with high or persistent poverty; high unemployment and



1 underemployment; linguistic isolation; high housing, energy, and
2 transportation cost burdens; disproportionate environmental
3 stressors and impacts from climate change; and other effects
4 that define disadvantaged communities for purposes of the
5 Justice40 Initiative; and

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7 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Energy Office is refocusing the
8 objectives of the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative to more
9 expressly incorporate equity and justice in energy policy
10 through initiatives such as the Climate Ready Hawaii VISTA and
11 Clean Energy Wayfinders programs; and

12
13 WHEREAS, Hawaii is a member of the Pacific ohana of nations
14 and islands, which also have large numbers of similarly
15 disadvantaged communities and are of strategic importance to the
16 United States; and

17
18 WHEREAS, Hawaii is a center for public diplomacy in the
19 Indo-Pacific region and the host to the United States Indo-
20 Pacific Command and facilities for each of the six service
21 branches of the Department of Defense; and

22
23 WHEREAS, in 2022, the Biden-Harris Administration
24 established an Indo-Pacific national security strategy that
25 includes an economic framework to encourage innovation,
26 strengthen economic competitiveness, produce good-paying jobs,
27 rebuild supply chains, and expand economic opportunities through
28 investments, such as those in decarbonization and clean energy;
29 and

30
31 WHEREAS, the 2022 Indo-Pacific national security strategy
32 seeks to build resiliency by developing 2030 and 2050 targets,
33 strategies, plans, and policies consistent with limiting the
34 global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius; and

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36 WHEREAS, the interests of the State and the Biden-Harris
37 Administration are aligned to transform Hawaii's energy system
38 to promote clean energy in the State and throughout the Indo-
39 Pacific region; now, therefore,

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41 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
42 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular



1 Session of 2023, that the Hawaii State Energy Office is
2 requested to engage the United States Department of Energy to
3 establish a permanent presence within the State of Hawaii; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor, Director of
6 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, as well as all
7 departments and agencies with energy-related duties and
8 responsibilities, are requested to support the Chief Energy
9 Officer in this endeavor; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Energy Office
12 is requested to submit a report to the Legislature no later than
13 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
14 2024 on the status of the engagement and the terms of any
15 proposed agreement; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
18 Resolution be transmitted to the United States Secretary of
19 Energy; members of the Hawaii congressional delegation;
20 Governor; Director of Business, Economic Development, and
21 Tourism; and Chief Energy Officer of the Hawaii State Energy
22 Office.
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OFFERED BY: *Maile E. Lowen*

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